34. **Anchal.**—There were 212 Anchal Offices and 324 letter boxes at the end of 1092. With a view to extend the benefits of the Anchal service to localities where it is not feasible to establish regular offices, Government have resolved to open non-departmental offices and place them in charge of persons with a knowledge of the three R's on their undertaking to deposit the necessary security. By this arrangement the number of Anchal Offices may be indefinitely extended without loss to the Government and with benefit to the public. On the receipts justifying such a course, these non-departmental offices will be converted into regular offices, while honest work will be rewarded by select men in charge of such offices being gradually drawn to the general service as vacancies arise. All the Anchal Offices were doing hundi work. The total value of the inland and foreign hundies issued during the year was Rs. 31,21,979. 39 Anchal Offices did Savings Bank work. The charges on parcels conveyed by transit boats were revised and new rates prescribed with reference to the distance and weight of the parcels conveyed.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

35. **Vital Statistics.**— The birth and death rates were 21·9 and 14·1 per mille against 20·5 and 13·6 respectively and the ratio of infantile deaths 90·1 per mille of registered births against 87 in 1091. It is satisfactory to note that, in the registration of births, deaths and infantile mortality, all the agencies have shown appreciable improvement and made a nearer approach to the standard rates.

36. **Town Improvement Committees.**—The work of Mr. K. A. Krishna Aiyangar, non-official President of the Alleppey Town Improvement Committee for the past three years, has been eminently satisfactory, and the Government have re-appointed him as President for a further term of three years. Since the close of 1092, non-official Vice-Presidents have been appointed for the Committees of Mavelikara and Vaikam and an official Vice-President for the Kuzhittura Committee. The rate-payers of the towns of Haripad and Kuzhittura have been given the privilege of electing four out of seven non-official members. Compulsory vaccination has been introduced in Parur. Vaccination is compulsory at present in 15 out of the 19 Municipal towns of the State.

37. **Medical relief.**—The number of Assistant Surgeons was increased from 29 to 32 and of Hospital Assistants from 41 to 45. Since the close of the year, the designation of Hospital Assistants has been changed into Sub-Assistant Surgeons. A portion of the old Women and Children's Hospital buildings was converted into four paying wards and added to the General Hospital. The cost of dieting the in-patients rose by about chs. 11 per head. The number of Vaidyasalas rose from 72 to 73, of which 67 were maintained for the treatment of general diseases and the remaining 6, known as *Vishavaidyasalas*, for the exclusive treatment of snake-bite, etc. On the retirement of Mr. Parameswaran Muthatu from the post of Superintendent of Vaidyasalas at the end of the year, Mr. K. Sankara Menon, M. A., L. T., was appointed as the head of the department and designated Director of Ayurveda. The question of increasing the usefulness of this department is engaging the attention of Government.

EDUCATION.

38. **General Statistics.**—The number of recognised institutions at the end of 1092 was 2,508 and their strength 3,48,986. The corresponding figures for the unrecognised institutions were 1,582 and 55,022. Thus the total number of educational institutions at the close of the year was 4,090 with an aggregate strength of 4,04,008; which gives an average of one school for every 1·8 square miles of area and 838 inhabitants. The departmental schools rose in number from 1,043 in 1091 to 1,075 in 1092 and the private aided schools from 1,103 to 1,264, there being only 169 recognised schools not brought under the grant-in-aid system. Of the total population of the State 10·1 per cent were receiving instruction in recognised schools against 9·3 in 1091, while, if the figure for unrecognised schools were also taken into account, the corresponding precentage would be 11·7. The percentage of pupils in

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